

Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



Sturgeon chub

Macrhybopsis gelida

Common name • Sturgeon chub

Scientific name • *Macrhybopsis gelida*

Federal status • Candidate

Information Contacts

For information regarding regulations for development in rivers and streams, contact:

Ecology

Sturgeon chub inhabit the Missouri River from Montana to Missouri and the Mississippi River downstream from the confluence of these rivers. They prefer swift current in large, silty rivers that have sand and fine gravel bottoms. Chubs eat bottom-dwelling invertebrates that they find using taste buds that cover their fins, head and body. They spawn from late spring to mid-summer. Adult sturgeon chub are typically 1.7-3.0 inches in length.

Reason for Decline

Surveys conducted on the Missouri River during the 1940s show that the sturgeon chub was not very common. Since then, the population has become steady in the eastern part of Missouri. Channelization activities that destroy shallow shoals with gravel greatly reduce habitat for young-of-the-year sturgeon chub. Changed natural flow regimen and reduced turbidity caused by Missouri River mainstream reservoirs have degraded sturgeon chub habitat. Other factors including point and non-point source pollution have likely reduced the population, too.

Specific Recommendations

Missouri contains one of the best populations of sturgeon chub in its historical range. It is important to protect shallow shoals and large rivers to help ensure the survival of this minnow species.

→ Project activities should not occur below water levels between April 15 and August 30.

→ Channelization and impoundment activities should be avoided in areas of potential habitat for the sturgeon chub.

General Recommendations

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Streams and Rivers.

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Disclaimer

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